

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 /106 W

-----111119 170741Z /17

R 160939Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1151

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PERP, PU, CV, SP

SUBJECT: THE CANARY ISLANDS, THE AZORES, AND MADEIRA

1. GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE HAVE BOTH RECENTLY BEEN LOBBIED ON THE CANARY ISLANDS INDEPENDENCE ISSUE; FIRST BY A SPANISH PARLIMENTARY DELEGATION HEADED BY LIBERAL DEPUTY IGNACIO COMUNAS, AND THEN WITHIN THREE DAYS BY ALGERIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BOUTEFLIKA. THE SPANISH WERE IN THE AREA UP TO APRIL 26, AND BOUTEFLIKA COMPLETED HIS TOUR AND LEFT FOR ALGIERS FROM BISSAU ON APRIL 29.

2. AS THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF CAPE VERDE ANNOUNCED DURING A RECENT VISIT TO EUROPE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE CANARY ISLANDS AS PART OF SPAIN AND WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE ANY INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, THE TWO LOBBYING GROUPS WERE OBVIOUSLY DEVOTING THEIR EFFORT TO GUINEA-BISSAU. THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE SPANISH WENT AWAY REASONABLY ASSURED THAT THE GOGB WILL TAKE THE SAME POSITION AS CAPE VERDE.

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3. THE GOGB POSITION WAS ENUNCIATED BY PRESIDENT CABRAL IN HIS "STATE OF THE NATION" SPEECH TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON MAY 9. ESSENTIALLY, HE STATED THAT "AT LEAST FOR TTE MOMENT" THE GOGB DID NOT CONSIDER THE CANARY ISLANDS A NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE SITUATION.

4. CABRAL'S REFERENCE TO THE CANARY ISLANDS WAS

LINKED WITH THE AZORES AND MADEIRA. HE RESTATED THE GOGB POSITION OF FULL SUPPORT FOR ALL LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS. HOWEVER, HE SET OUT CRITERIA CALLING FOR ASSURANCE THAT IN ANY SPECIFIC SITUATION BOTH A COLONIAL SITUATION AND A REAL NATIONALIST MOVEMENT EXISTED. HE PARTICULARLY NOTED THE NECESSITY TO AVOID BECOMING INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING "SMALL GROUPS OF OPPORTUNISTS".

5. WITH RESPECT TO THE CANARIES, CABRAL SAID "FOR THE TIME BEING" HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE REQUIRED CONDITIONS EXISTED AND BEFORE THE GOGB WOULD CONSIDER SUPPORTING ANY INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN THE ISLANDS, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVED THAT A COLONIAL SITUATION AND AN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT EXISTED.

6. WITH RESPECT TO THE AZORES AND MADEIRA, CABRAL WENT EVEN FARTHER IN CLOSING THE DOOR BY SAYING THE CONDITIONS DID NOT EXIST AND THAT THE GOGB DID NOT EVEN CONSIDER THOSE ISLANDS TO BE PART OF AFRICA. HE MADE A SCATHING REMARK ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF AZOREANS AND MADEIRIANS TOWARDS THE GUINEA-BISSAU INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT DURING THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE AND BY FAIRLY STRONG INFERENCE CLASSIFIED ANY AZOREAN AND MADEIRIAN CLAIMANTS AS ANTI-PROGRESSIVE FORCES REACTING AGAINST THE PRESENT DAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT OF LISBON. (THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR WAS VERY PLEASED BY THESE REMARKS.) MARKS

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